(ख) क्या इज़रायल में रेगिस्तान को जिस प्रकार विकसित कर कृषि योग्य बनाया गया है; उसी प्रकार सरकार ने रेगिस्तानी भूमि का विकास कर उसे खेती योग्य बनाने हेतु विशेषज्ञ दल का गठन किया है;

(ग) क्या इस संबंध में विशेषज्ञों का प्रतिवेदन प्राप्त हो गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है?

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री बाबागौड़ा पाटिल): (क) सूखा और मरूस्थलीकरण का सामना करने, पारिस्थितिकीय संतुलन की बहाली को प्रोत्साहन देने और भूमि, मानव और पशुओं की उत्पादकता पर प्रतिकूल जलवायु पारिस्थितियों के प्रभाव को कम करने के लिए राजस्थान के 16 जिलों के 85 ब्लाकों में मरूभूमि विकास कार्यक्रम पहले से ही कार्यान्वित किया जा रहा है।

(ख) ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय द्वारा इस प्रकार के किसी विशेषज्ञ दल का गठन नहीं किया गया है।

(ग) और (घ) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठते।

Recruitment in Armed Forces

*113. SHRI ASHOK MITRA:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of recruitments at different levels in the Army, Air Force and Navy in the years since 1991-1992;

(b) the number of recruits from each of the Eastern and North-Eastern States during these years; and

(c) whether Government propose a special drive to improve the rate of recruitment from these States, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) 1. The recruitment of officers in the Army, Air Force and Navy is carried out on the basis of All-India Open competition. There is, therefore, no statewise allocation of vacancies in the recruitment of officers.

2. The total number of recruitments at different levels in the Army, Air Force and Navy for the year from 1991-92 to 1996-97 is given below:—

Year	Army	Air Force	Navy
1991-92	31998	6098	2330
1992-93	25991	5470	2726
1993-94	49766	4830	2509
1994-95	72235	4928	2496
1995-96	86961	4645	2487
1996-97	58385	3615	3360

3. The following numbers of Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) were recruited from Eastern and North Eastern States during the period from 1991-92 to 1996-97:—

Navy

States	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
West Bengal	90	115	201	120	114	215
Bihar	143	215	176	206	283	433
Orissa	38	108	77	103	127	216
Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam	08	06	09	06	05	10
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manipur	-	01	-	01	02	03
Meghalaya	01	02	-	01	03	01
Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nagaland	-	01	01	-	-	-
Tripura	-	-	-	01	-	01

4. *Army*

In so far as Army is concerned, there is no proposal to launch and special recruitment drive in the Eastern States. However, it has been decided to launch a special drive to improve the rate of recruitment from North Eastern States.

Air Force

Recruitment rallies are being held to recruit Airmen, at regular intervals.

Navy

There is no proposal to hold any special recruitment drive by Navy.

Army

States	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
West Bengal	1200	1021	2603	3518	5838	3292
Bihar	1969	1608	3396	4826	5807	4069
Orissa	586	480	1185	1411	2110	1294
Sikkim	07	06	01	25	13	21
Assam	652	528	771	1135	2157	1187
Arunachal Pradesh	27	32	52	49	42	66
Manipur	118	108	156	397	578	286
Meghalaya	43	62	88	84	215	164
Mizoram	69	55	144	161	131	95
Nagaland	95	26	56	103	129	183
Tripura	15	10	30	23	129	137

Air Force

States	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
West Bengal	497	341	358	207	241	280
Bihar	916	986	1044	1259	1386	1529
Orissa	249	368	346	379	232	361
Sikkim	01	-	02	-	01	-
Assam	36	11	12	05	10	14
Arunachal Pradesh	01	-	-	-	-	-
Manipur	-	01	03	05	02	02
Meghalaya	02	-	-	-	05	-
Mizoram	01	-	01	-	-	-
Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tripura	-	01	-	-	-	01

Losses in State Electricity Boards

*114. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Electricity Boards are facing severe crisis due to mounting losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps or proposed to take steps to rescue the State Electricity Boards; and